

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A device for vacuum sealing a food item package comprising:
 - 2 a first clam shell having a lip and a passage for supplying a vacuum to the lip;
 - 3 a second clam shell having a lip and a passage for supplying a vacuum to the lip;
 - 4 a vacuum supply applied to each of the lips of the clam shells;
 - 5 wherein the first and second clam shells may be engaged so as to form an air tight
 - 6 chamber; and
 - 7 a means for supplying compressed air into the air tight chamber.
- 1 2. The device of claim 1 wherein the lips are curved.
- 1 3. The device of claim 1 further comprising at least one locking mechanism comprising:
 - 2 a rotating axle;
 - 3 a swing arm rigidly attached to the rotating axle;
 - 4 a locking arm pivotally attached to the first clam shell and the swing arm;
 - 5 a second locking arm rotatably attached to the second clam shell in the swing arm;
 - 6 and
 - 7 such that when the rotating axis is rotated 180° the first clam shell and second clam
 - 8 shell are engaged to form an air tight chamber.

- 1 4. A method for vacuum sealing a food item package comprising:
- 2 enclosing a package portion of a food item packaging web within an air tight
- 3 chamber;
- 4 a means for maintaining fluid communication between the package portion and the
- 5 remainder of the web such that air from the package portion of the web may enter the
- 6 remainder of the web; and
- 7 supplying compressed air to the air tight chamber such that air within the package
- 8 portion of the web is forced into the remainder of the web.